

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
HA-05 OMB-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /089 W
-----071796 010418Z /70

R 312109Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9864
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 06385

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: RP, UR, US, PROP
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ATTACKS U.S. POLICY TOWARD
PHILIPPINES

REF: 77 MOSCOW 18242

SUMMARY: ANTI-U.S. THEME IS MAJOR ELEMENT OF SOVIET PRESS
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REPORTING ON FILIPINO ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTEL (DEC., 1977) REPORTED TRENDS IN SOVIET PRESS
TREATMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES IN LATE 1977,
INVOLVING DENUNCIATION OF THE U.S. FOR "PRESSURING" THE
PHILIPPINES, PARTICULARLY ON THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS, AND
LACK OF ANY DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE MARCOS REGIME. IF

ANYTHING, THESE TRENDS HAVE BEEN REINFORCED IN THE OCCASIONAL SOVIET PRESS ARTICLES ON THE PHILIPPINES APPEARING IN EARLY 1978.

2. THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE SEEN A NUMBER OF ARTICLES ON THE PHILIPPINES, ALL OF WHICH HAVE CARRIED ANTI-U.S. ELEMENTS IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. AN AUTHORITATIVE MARCH 27 PRAVDA PIECE BEGINS BY NOTING THE MAIN PARTIES IN THE FILIPINO ELECTION CAMPAIGN. IT THEN DEVOTES MAJOR ATTENTION TO THE "SENSITIVE PROBLEM" OF PHILIPPINE-U.S. RELATIONS, AS REFLECTED IN THE "PRE-ELECTION STRUGGLE." ARTICLE STATES THE "THE MARCOS GOVERNMENT HAS MADE MOVES TO WEAKEN THE REPUBLIC'S DEPENDENCE UPON ITS FORMER 'MOTHER COUNTRY,'" THAT "THE PHILIPPINES HAS PROCLAIMED THE DESIRE TO DEVELOP COOPERATION WITH ALL STATES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR SOCIAL SYSTEMS," AND THAT MANILA HAS ACCORDINGLY "ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT "HOWEVER, THE POWERFUL LEVERS FOR PRESSURING THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF WASHINGTON. THIS INCLUDES, ABOVE ALL, THE LARGE CONTINGENTS OF U.S. FORCES DEPLOYED AT THE SUBIC BAY AND CLARK FIELD BASES. BESIDES, WHOLE SECTORS OF THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY ARE ORIENTED TO THE U.S. MARKET. IT IS NO WONDER, THEREFORE, THAT MANILA'S ATTEMPTS TO REVISE THE STATUS OF THE U.S. BASES AND TO CANCEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE DISCRIMINATORY CONDITIONS OF THE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. HAVE NOT YET BEEN SUCCESSFUL." ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT, "... IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE PRESIDENT MARCOS' STAND AT THE U.S.-PHILIPPINES TALKS, THE 'SENIOR PARTNER' HAS BEGUN RENDERING SUPPORT TO THE OPPOSITION IN THE COURSE OF THE CURRENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN. FILIPINO NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT SOME OPPOSITION LEADERS, WHO HELD IMPORTANT POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST, HAVE LONG BEEN CONNECTED WITH THE CIA." COMMENTARY CONCLUDES BY PREDICTING THAT "THE ELECTIONS WILL CERTAINLY MARK AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT" OF THE PHILIPPINES.

3. MARCH 28 TASS ARTICLE DATED SINGAPORE HIGHLIGHTS MARCOS' CHARGES OF U.S. "INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE PHILIPPINES", OF ALLEGED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE OPPOSITION, AND U.S. TRADE RESTRICTIONS ON FILIPINO GOODS. ARTICLE REPORTS "LOCAL OBSERVERS" AS STATING THAT U.S. "PRESSURE" IS AIMED "SPECIFICALLY" AT WEAKENING THE PHILIPPINES' POSITION ON REVIEWING "AN UNEQUAL AGREEMENT ON U.S. BASES."

4. MARCH 25 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CARRIES REPORT OF RECENT VISIT BY SOVIET VETERANS GROUP TO THE PHILIPPINES. ARTICLE CITES MARCOS AS TELLING GROUP OF HIS WISH TO SEE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS; THAT THE SOVIET UNION MADE THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORY IN WWII; AND THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ALLIED WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN WWII. ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS THE GROUP'S ESCORT AS STATING THAT THE BATTLES ON BATAAN AND C RREGIDOR LASTED FIVE MONTHS, AND THAT "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE LASTED LONGER IF THE COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN FORCES GENERAL

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DOUGLAS MCCARTHER AND HIS STAFF HAD NOT ABANDONED
(POKINULI) THEIR OWN FORCES AT A CRITICAL MOMENT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
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TAGS: PROP, SOPN, RP, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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